

Grinnell United Methodist Church



NEWSLETTER

916 5th Ave. Grinnell, IA 50112

(641) 236-3757

www.grinnellumc.org

OFFICE HOURS:

Mon - Thurs. 8:30AM - 3:30PM

Closed for Lunch 12:30-1:30PM

Closed Friday

Sunday Worship

@ 8:00AM & 10:30AM

Live Stream Worship

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/grinnellumc

You Tube:

www.youtube.com/channel/UCFRRZnsQbvp3HK_HXnYkbCw

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& Thank Yous

Grinnell Community Meal Thursdays @ 5:30PM

The Community Meal is open to ALL and operates in partnership with organizations in the Grinnell. Volunteers can sign-up online at <https://grinnellumc.org/community-meal>.

September Meals:

Sept 3rd - Chicken Casserole, Mixed Vegetables, Salad, & Dessert

*Provided by Grinnell UMC

Sept 10th - Lasagna, Garlic Bread, Salad & Dessert

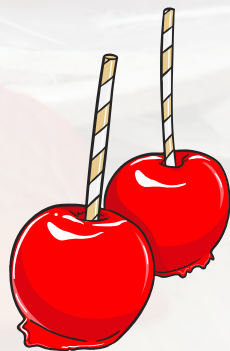
*Provided by Poweshiek Dems

Sept 17th - Loose Meat Sandwiches, Salad, Corn, & Dessert

*Provided by St. Mary's Catholic Church

Sept 24th - Beef Stew, Salad, & Texas Sheet Cake

*Provided by the Listening Project



Upcoming Events!



Church Potluck

Sun. Sept. 13th



Invite a Friend to Church

Sun. Sept. 13th



Outdoor Worship

Sun. Sept. 20th



Crop Walk

Sun.
Sept. 27th

Connections Potluck

Please join us in the Friendship Center for a potluck on **Sunday, Sept. 13** after the 10:30 worship service. Table service & beverages will be provided. Please bring a dish to share & enjoy fellowship and fun as we kick off this year's wonderful Sunday School year.

Invite A Friend to Church

Sunday, September 13th is our annual INVITE A FRIEND TO CHURCH SUNDAY! To kick off the start of fall invite a friend to church and show them what all we have to offer here at GUMC!

Outdoor Worship



September 20th at Central Park. 10:30AM worship service only. Bring your lawn chair. Snacks will be provided. In the event of inclement weather we will move back to the church.

Crop Walk

Put on your walking shoes and come to Central Park for CROP Walk, **Sunday, September 27, 9:15-10:15**. This annual event for children and adults raises money for those facing hunger at home and abroad. GUMC Sunday School classes will be participating along with other area churches and community members. All participants are encouraged to walk the perimeter of the park (.32 mile) at least once, illustrating how many in the world must walk for daily nourishment. There will be learning centers on food and water resources. Money contributed to CROP Walk will be sent to Church World Service for emergency food assistance, healthcare access in refugee settings, climate-smart agriculture and long-term solutions that strengthen food security. Donations can be made the day of the Walk, or contribute online at <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/chw/event/grinnellia>. A portion of donations received during the walk return to Poweshiek County for local food banks.

Youth News

SEPTEMBER

*Children's & Youth
Ministry*

WELCOME TO A NEW YEAR!

Families,

We are so thrilled to kick off a brand new year of Children's & Youth Ministry! Whether your child is joining us for Sunday School, Club 916, or Park Street, we are ready for a year full of faith, friendship, fun, and growth. Here's a look at what's coming up this September!

Sunday School Kick-Off - All are Welcome!

Sunday, September 13 • Front Lawn

Join us for a morning full of fun, games, snacks, and a bounce house as we launch a new year of Sunday School! It's the perfect way to start a year of learning, growing, and building lasting friendships. All kids are welcome!

Club 916 Kick-Off – 4th & 5th Grade

Wednesday, September 16 • 3:15-5:00 PM • Central Park

Ride Bus 3 from school and head straight to the fun! Snacks will be waiting when you arrive. Come ready for games, friendships, faith, and the start of another amazing year with Club 916!

Park Street Kick-Off - 6th grade and up

Wednesday, September 16 • 6:00-8:00 PM • Central Park

Kick off the year with a meal together, reconnect with friends, play Capture the Flag, and dig into big questions about faith and life. We'll also talk about serving others and having a blast doing it. Bring a friend and come ready to play!



WE'RE EXCITED FOR A NEW YEAR!

Whether you're joining us for Sunday School, Club 916, or Park Street – there is a place for everyone here. We can't wait to welcome back familiar faces and meet new ones. It's going to be an incredible year!

See you out there,

Children's & Youth Ministry Team

Reach out with any question to Katie Beall at discipleship1@grinnellumc.org



United Women of Faith



September 2nd, 2 p.m. - Executive Board Meeting

September 8th, 2 p.m. - Trinity Circle

September 14th, 1 p.m. - Dorcas Circle (907 Orchard Dr, 2nd Floor Lounge)

September 28th, 7 p.m. - Rachel Circle

Tuesday Morning Bible Study: Three Simple Rules

After Eric's sermons, have you been curious to learn more about John Wesley's

"Three Simple Rules": Do no harm, do good and stay in love with God?

A five-week Bible study, Three Simple Rules: A Wesleyan Way of Living by Rueben Job will be offered on **Tuesday mornings from 10-11am** in the Wesley Room on Sept. 22, 29, & Oct. 6, 20 & 27. (No class on Oct. 13) and led by Diane Eberhart.

Please register at: <https://grinnellumc.org/signups/>. Books are \$9 and available at the church office. Bishop Job offers an interpretation of Wesley's rules for today's readers. This insightful book calls us to mutual respect, unity and a deeper daily relationship with God. All are welcome!

Faith and Fellowship

Please continue with your current groups for the rest of 2026. Be on the lookout for information as we gather names who would like to participate in 2027. Our plan is to gather names by mid November, form the new groups by mid December and then implement our new groups on January 1, 2027 for the year. If you are interested in participating, please email or call the church office.



Thanksgiving Ingathering

Once again, we are making plans to participate in the Thanksgiving Ingathering, and we hope you will join us. There are a couple of ways you can do that. First, if you are willing and able to shop, the lists for the 2 kits can be found at the bottom of this message. Second, if you would rather not shop, you may make a monetary donation we would ask that you mark it as "Ingathering donation". These donations are very welcome!

2026 PERSONAL DIGNITY KIT

- 1 Hand towel - no kitchen towels
 - 1 Washcloth - no dishcloths
 - 1 Adult toothbrush - no multipacks
 - 1 Bar soap - 3-4 oz
 - 1 Shampoo - 12-19 oz
 - 1 Deodorant - 2-3 oz - stick, roll on, or pump
 - 1 Lotion - 8-10 oz
- Place all items in the resealable plastic bag. Include \$2 donation for toothpaste and carrying bag.

2026 STUDENT KIT

- 3 Notebooks - 1 subject spiral 8½x 10 1/2
 - 1 Ruler - 12" long with metric
 - 6 Pencils - unsharpened
 - 1 Pencil sharpener
 - 1 Eraser - 2" or larger
 - 1 Box 12 colored pencils
 - 1 Box 24 crayons
 - 1 Pair student scissors
- Place all items in the cloth bag. Include \$2 donation for shipping.

Nursing Home Worship Need

Tim Niswander is looking for anyone who is interested in playing piano for the St. Francis nursing home worship the first Sunday of the month. If you are interested please contact Tim @ (515) 556-5694 or tniswander69@gmail.com.



Boomers Potluck

September 14th, 11:30 @ the church

Theme will be back to school. If you have any questions, please contact Lora Cline.

Adult Sunday School Class

A NEW Adult Sunday School class will begin a discussion-based study using the devotional book "Praying with John Wesley" by David A. deSilva. We will meet in the Chapel at 10AM, Sunday, Sept. 13th to introduce the study, class begins on Sunday, Sept. 20th - 9:15AM.

PFLAG

For the last year GUMC has hosted the monthly meetings of PFLAG Grinnell/Poweshiek, providing a welcoming space for important conversations and support for community members. As the chapter president, I am grateful for the use of the space and the welcome provided by the church. PFLAG is a non-profit organization that has been providing support to LGBTQ+ families since 1973, with over 350 chapters across the county. We launched the local chapter just over a year ago and I wish I could convey the impact I believe it is making.

In a time when many in the LGBTQ+ community are having their rights restricted and threatened by lawmakers, finding a safe space in the community makes things a little more bearable. On **September 14th at 7pm** we will have an ice cream social in the Friendship Center. We will share about the work done during our first year and our plans for the coming year. It is open to anyone in the community who is curious about PFLAG and wants to learn more. We'd love to have you join us for some Dari Barn ice cream and PFLAG fun.

For more information, check out our website at pflag-grinnell.org.

Monique Shore, PFLAG Board President & GUMC Lay Leader



MICA Fund Update

For many years the generosity of GUMC has supported the purchase of milk and toilet paper for the MICA food pantry. In recent conversations with Pam Sawrie at MICA, I learned that they are now giving out between 400-450 food boxes each month. Since they now have coolers at MICA (added about 5 years ago) most food boxes get milk provided by the food bank. But for those that need whole milk or a non-dairy milk, they receive a milk voucher for Fareway. Our milk funds cover the expense of those vouchers each month. After the coolers were added, we shifted some of our funds to cover toilet paper as that is something people can't buy with their SNAP benefits. We are now providing 660 rolls of TP every month so every box picked up has the option of getting a roll or two of TP. If this is a ministry you would like to support, you can make a gift to the milk fund. Each time we take communion we place MICA baskets at the front of the sanctuary as a reminder to support this ministry. Thank you to everyone who gives generously to support this ministry. It truly does make a difference. Monique Shore, MICA fund coordinator



Grinnell United Methodist Church

Church Council Meeting - August 18, 2025

Attending: Dar & Jeanette Copeman, Jill Hulsing, Jerry Lane, Tim Niswander, Pastor Eric Schubert, Scott Sharp, Monique Shore, Alex & Reva Shults, Mindy Togle & Carolyn Grosenbach

July 2026 minutes were approved as submitted. Getting acquainted time was sharing where we had received God's love lately. Beautiful flowers and mission work were mentioned. Prayer Concerns were shared. Pastor Eric started discussion reminding us that last month we talked about trust. This meeting we will discuss conflict and how we deal with this. Building trust makes conflict possible. All great relationships require debating ideas. Team members need to remember that if someone disagrees with you it doesn't mean they don't like you; it is not a personal thing, A good leader listens to ideas; others need to trust they are working on this.

Next topic discussed was shared from Worship Committee: They would like to start organizing 9:15 worship service keeping it the same as other two services which would give us a place to grow; we need to offer what we are doing to more people. The next step is figuring how to make this work. Praise team now meets during this time. Also, Fellowship Time will be discussed. 11:00 would be new time for third worship service. Comment was made to move forward with assessment; goal is to get more people coming to church services. It was also mentioned that one time 9:15 service was talked about for parents that bring children to Sunday School. Pastor Eric reported that when question was asked about having Saturday worship service only two people indicated they could come so that is not being considered as option. The 9:15 service would not have Children's Time as would be during Sunday School. Thought was to not have ushers take collection but instead have collection boxes at certain spot. Church Council is okay with moving forward with this. It was reported Katie is going to need help going forward with Youth ministries program. Discussion followed of how to get more adult bodies to help out. It is felt some people are hesitant as not sure what they are expected to do; also maybe only come some weeks. Another question asked was which group needs more people? Is this just for crowd control? Idea was presented to ask Katie to put together "story" of what they need and talk briefly at church to present this. Also comment made was is it time to ask "empty nesters" to help as younger parents are so busy with their own children. Since we are now down one employee we could possibly offer part-time position; Jerry mentioned this was discussed in Finance. We still need to let congregation know what other committees are doing for our church. The recent presentation given by Jeanette about Trustees recent projects was recorded and then slides were made to put on Social Media. This is another way to keep members informed of where funds are spent. Dar suggested we need a Mini Retreat to help set Goals for 2027, Mindy suggested to do it right after EOY and have Old Chairs discuss along with New Chairs.

Dar closed us in prayer. Next meeting: September 15th

Trustee's: Several people donated money for repair of the organ and steps after the Trustee talk to the congregation, totaling \$12,375. The rest of the cost was paid by the GUMC Foundation. The steps on the east side of the building are complete with handrails. The light poles have been removed to be repaired and powder coated to match the railings.

Discipleship: We talked about getting more information about the new 9-to-Dine groups out for sign-ups and using Facebook. In addition, we want to add more information to the Welcome Center, including a brochure on ways people can get involved in the church at different levels when they are ready. Describing needs in our youth programs is a top priority. Sunday School kickoff is Sept. 13.

Worship: We continued planning outdoor worship for September 20th. The Main Stage at Central park is rented. Will purchase food closer to event. Also covered our 2026 Church Goals to refocus our decisions to match goals. Additionally, we decided to move forward in planning for a 3rd worship service. Pastor Eric brought this to Church Council who were on board. Planning will take some time, so will keep you posted.

United Women in Faith: All church circles will be meeting in September; Executive Board Meeting - to be held September 2nd @ 2pm

Nominations-Leadership: The Nominations & Leadership committee is starting discernment and calls for 2027 committee assignments. Current committee leaders are invited to talk with Monique or Pastor Eric if they have insight on individuals who may be willing to serve.

Schub's Sharing

By his divine power the Lord has given us everything we need for life and godliness through the knowledge of the one who called us by his own honor and glory. Through his honor and glory he has given us his precious and wonderful promises, that you may share the divine nature and escape from the world's immorality that sinful craving produces. This is why you must make every effort to add moral excellence to your faith; and to moral excellence, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, endurance; and to endurance, godliness; and to godliness, affection for others; and to affection for others, love. If all these are yours and they are growing in you, they'll keep you from becoming inactive and unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Peter 1:3-8

My family and I are settling into our back-to-school routines, but these routines still change a little each year. Now with two in college, we are working hard to stay connected over distance (which is considerably easier now than when I was in college and free video chats were science fiction), adjusting to all our children in new grades and activities, figuring out who is driving whom where, who is picking up whom, and who is attending what event.

Sunday School and Youth Group are starting, so church is getting into our routines as well. We are thankful for all our volunteers and helpers! Without them, there's no way we could feed, teach, and serve all the youth that come through the doors of GUMC every week. As in the past, we pray this year is a blessing for the students and leaders.

We all have routines of some kind in our lives, no matter what stage of life we are in. In the passage above, Peter gives us some good advice on how to keep Jesus first even if we are busy. This advice includes treating ourselves and others as Jesus would, learning to control our emotions (which includes learning when we need to rest), learning to endure difficult tasks or times and who can support us in those difficult times, learning to find Christ in others, and learning to love as Christ loves. We can do all these things through the grace God pours on us, as well as learning how to work these actions into our daily lives. They take time, and how we learn, grow, and with whom changes over time, but prayer, finding time to listen to Jesus (which we can do in a car), reading Scripture, and worshiping our savior keep us grounded even in the busiest times. We can adjust and change how we stay close to God as our lives change around us.

Invite someone to church this Sunday so they can be a part of God's wonderful work!

Pray for our children, youth, and adults! Let's keep living for Jesus and see what amazing things God does through Grinnell United Methodist Church this school year!

Grace and peace,
Eric



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 2:30pm Staff Meeting 6pm Board of Trustees Meeting	2 2pm UWF Exec Brd Mtg	3 7am Men's Small Group 5:30pm Grinnell Community Meal 6:30pm Praise Band	4	5 9am MAAN Breakfast
	6 8am Worship 10:30am Worship 1:30pm Windsor Manor Worship 2:30pm St. Frances Worship 12pm Bloom @ Mayflower	7 LABOR DAY - Office Closed	8 2pm Trinity Circle 2:30pm Staff Meeting	9 9am Blood Drive 4pm Discipleship Committee Mtg 5:15pm RR Practice 5:15pm Service Committee Mtg 6:15pm CC Practice	10 5:30pm Grinnell Community Meal 6:30pm Praise Band	11 9am MAAN Breakfast
13 8am Worship 9:15am SS Kickoff 10:30am Worship 11:30am Connections CMTE Potluck 10am Adult SS Meeting	14 11:30am Boomers Lunch 1pm Dorcas Circle 5pm SPRC Meeting 6:30pm Boy Scouts 7pm PFLAG	15 2:30pm Staff Meeting 5:15pm Finance Committee Mtg 6pm Worship Committee Mtg 7pm Church Council Mtg	16 3:30pm Club 916 5:15pm RR Practice 6pm Park St High 6:15pm CC Practice	17 5:30pm Grinnell Community Meal 6:30pm Praise Band	18	19 9am MAAN Breakfast
20 8am Worship 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Outdoor Worship	21 6:30pm Boy Scouts	22 10am Three Simple Rules Sm Group 2:30pm Staff Meeting	23 8:30am Foster Care Rvw Brd 3:30pm Club 916 5:15pm RR Practice 6pm Park St High 6:15pm CC Practice	24 5:30pm Grinnell Community Meal 6:30pm Praise Band	25	26 9am MAAN Breakfast
27 8am Worship 9:15am Sunday School - Crop Walk 10:30am Worship 12pm Social Justice Small Group	28 6:30pm Boy Scouts 7pm Rachel Circle	29 10am Three Simple Rules Sm Group 2:30pm Staff Meeting	30 3:30pm Club 916 5:15pm RR Practice 6pm Park St High 6:15pm CC Practice			

September

September Birthdays & Anniversaries



1 - Kim Dodd
2 - Joel Baumann
3 - Darcy Dawson, Donna Miller
6 - Vance Laug
7 - Allan Latcham, Don Burkhead ,
Lynn Budding, Verl Beck
9 - Moraine Shore, Tim Marsho
10 - Keeley Kriegel, Maddox Kriegel
11 - Cole Tokle
14 - Bob Stewart
15 - Diane Eberhart
19 - Terri Kelling
20 - Roger Iverson
21 - IFinneas Van Arkel
22 - Alan Muntz
26 - Adam Brennan
27 - Joyce Hauser
29 - Brent Lloyd, Dax Breeden,
Peg Watson
30 - Jeanette Copeman

1 - Ron and Joyce Hauser
5 - Del and Carolyn Dawes
Jared and Melissa Breeden
8 - Tim and Jessica Turba
9 - Jim and Mary Bair
10 - Stan and Tracy Reitz
11 - Brian and Ramona Mitchell
12 - Mark and Lynnda Risting
18 - Brian and Jan Veach
Dick and Bev Postels
19 - Jens Henningsen and Lexy
Determan
24 - Gary Porter and Gretchen
Zimmerman
Jim and Betty Ludden
27 - Adam and Nikki Laug
Lawrence and Shannon McNaul

THANK YOU!

Thank you to all our donors and mission
volunteers who purchased and
assembled these essential kits that show
God's love in a practical way. Every kit
assembled at Midwest Mission is made by
a volunteer. Without your dedication, we
would not be able to continue to help
others.

Midwest Mission

Grinnell UMC,
Thank you for hosting the blood drive!
Here are the official results: 27 people
on the schedule going into the drive;
25 registered to donate; 24 were able
to donate; 27 units of blood collected;
Up to 81 lives saved or sustained!!
Thank you again for helping us save
lives! Life Serve Blood Center

Dear Friends in Mission,
Thank you for partnering with Global
Ministries as we move forward in establishing
new congregations around the world.
Grace & Peace, Jubilee Project

GUMC Staff:

Eric Schubert, Pastor
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Amy Keenan
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Katie Beall
Director of Discipleship
discipleship1@grinnellumc.org

Melissa Breeden
Worship Coordinator
worship1@grinnellumc.org

Richard Tanimoto, Organist
Monique Shore, Hand Bell
Director
Kelly's Kleaners, Custodians

OUR SOCIALS EXPLAINED

**JOIN OUR FACEBOOK
GROUP TO KEEP IN
TOUCH WITH THE
GUMC COMMUNITY**



**@Grinnell United
Methodist Church**

**AND FOLLOW OUR
SOCIAL MEDIA PAGES TO
STAY UP TO DATE ON THE
LIFE OF OUR CHURCH**



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Return Service Requested



GRINNELL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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Growing in Christ while loving
and serving all.